

## **Conservation Biology of Endangered Marine Species**

Course code: ENV 3160

Total contact hours: 60 hours

Pre-requisite: None

### **Course Overview**

This course highlights the importance of conservation biology in managing endangered marine species by emphasizing recent conservation efforts of umbrella species such as sea turtles and sharks in the Pacific of Costa Rica.

Marine ecosystems of the eastern tropical Pacific provide a baseline source for high commercial interest species in satisfying humans' demand for food worldwide. However, numerous marine species are threatened by unsustainable human activities, such as overfishing and habitat destruction.

The course develops a critical understanding of conservation biology by emphasizing the general concept of biodiversity.

We will use current case studies focusing on scientific investigations to answer critical life history aspects, recovery programs, species management, community conservation actions, and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

Students will also learn through various practical activities by visiting field stations and natural laboratories in Costa Rica.